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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A unique opportunity exists in this State for
3 secondary schools to be designated as Illinois Democracy
4 Schools; these schools provide students with authentic
5 experiences in the rights, responsibilities, and tensions
6 inherent in living in a constitutional democracy; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois Democracy Schools consciously promote
8 civic engagement by all students, have an intentional focus on
9 fostering participatory citizenship, and place an emphasis on
10 helping students understand how the fundamental ideals and
11 principles of our democratic society relate to important
12 current problems, opportunities, and controversies; and

13 WHEREAS, Illinois Democracy Schools collaborate with
14 parents, students, and their communities in developing a civic
15 mission and in providing curricular and extra-curricular civic
16 learning experiences for all students; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois Democracy Schools engage all of their
18 students in a continual process of improving and increasing
19 civic learning and engagement; and

20 WHEREAS, Nine high schools in this State are currently
21 designated as Illinois Democracy Schools, and thus have

1 expanded their students' opportunities for civic education and
2 engagement; and

3 WHEREAS, Quality civic educational opportunities are vital
4 for all students in this State and should be included in every
5 student's school experience; and

6 WHEREAS, The original intent of public schools was to
7 prepare children to participate constructively as adult
8 citizens in our democracy, while recent school reform efforts
9 emphasized improving student achievement in reading,
10 mathematics, and science only; and

11 WHEREAS, Like millions of their peers across the country,
12 many secondary school students in this State lack sufficient
13 formal instruction and opportunities for the development of
14 civic engagement; and

15 WHEREAS, Civic education in schools can play a vital role
16 in encouraging today's youth to become the active and informed
17 citizens our democracy requires; and

18 WHEREAS, The strength of our communities, this State, and
19 our nation depends on future generations understanding,
20 appreciating, and actively engaging in civic responsibility;
21 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we commend the efforts
3 of those 9 schools that have already taken the necessary steps
4 to become Illinois Democracy Schools; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we encourage all secondary schools in this
6 State to take the necessary steps to become Illinois Democracy
7 Schools; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That each school district's school report card
9 shall designate which of the district's secondary schools, if
10 any, are Illinois Democracy Schools and which are not; and be
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 delivered to the Illinois P-20 Council, the State Board of
14 Education, the State Superintendent of Education, and all
15 regional superintendents of schools.